

# Has a dragon really left? - In memory of Grandmaster Feng Zhiqiang

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Grandmaster **Feng Zhiqiang** passed away at 2 p.m. on May 5, 2012 in Beijing, China. Soon, there were eulogies all over on Internet in memory of this legend.



Grandmaster Feng Zhiqiang

<http://www.hunyuantaji.com.cn/>



*Taiji.net.cn*

Born in 1928, according to Chinese Zodiac, Grandmaster was a dragon, which is a symbol of intelligence, vitality and enthusiasm. A dragon is considered to be gifted with many talents and has leadership quality. Feng was born to a [martial arts](#) family. His grandfather was a [Kung Fu](#) master. As a child, it was said that Feng was full of energy and eager to “try his punches and kicks.” He started to learn Shaolin from his uncle at age 8. Later, he learned Tong Bei Quan from Grandmaster Han Xiao Feng. He gained recognition and fame in Beijing before turning age 20. However his pursuit for the ultimate martial knowledge brought him to Grandmaster Hu Yaozhen and Grandmaster Chen Fake. Hu taught him Xinyi Quan and the true internal power (jin) through collecting, nurturing and maneuvering Qi. Chen, the 9th generation lineage holder of Chen Style [Tai Chi](#), taught him Chen Style Tai Chi.

In 1953, Chen Fake and Hu Yaozhen co-founded Capital [Wushu](#) Research Society. Grandmaster Feng was always called to duty if someone challenged the Society and wanted to spar. Grandmaster Feng overpowered all challengers with ease using his amazing explosive internal power along with highly skillful Tai Chi techniques.

[Master Dr. Yang Yang](#) of New York, New York, remembered that when he first saw Master Feng demonstrate Push Hands in Shanghai in 1980's. Feng did not bring his students to do the demonstration. Instead, the 50-some-year-old Feng was pushing with anyone who challenged him and many were much younger and stronger than Feng. Nevertheless, Feng was unbeatable. Voted as the Best Overall Martial Artist in college, Yang realized that he should follow Grandmaster Feng to advance his knowledge in Tai Chi. In 1985, Dr. Yang went to law school in Beijing, in large part so he could study on a regular basis with Grandmaster Feng. This renowned mind-body research scientist became Feng's disciple in 1988.

Grandmaster Feng impacted so many lives through teaching in both China and overseas. He was invited to teach in Chen Village (the birthplace of modern Tai Chi) and taught many 19th generation

Chen Style masters in 1979. In 1984, he was invited to visit Japan. Since then, he traveled to forty some countries. Foreign students constantly went to Beijing to study with him as well. There were 18 Japanese Kung Fu organizations jointly established a Feng Zhiqiang Research Association.

Feng was famous for the [Chen Style 48 Form](#), which he distilled the traditional Chen Style Routine One by omitting repetitive movements and incorporated some Routine Two explosive movements. Later, based on his knowledge and experience, he modified the traditional Chen Style Tai Chi and integrated it with Xin Yi and Taoist [Qigong](#) for better health benefits. He named it Chen Style Hun Yuan system. He also created the [30 Silk Reeling Exercises](#), [Hun Yuan Primordial Qigong Exercises](#), [Hun Yuan Tai Chi Ruler](#), and various Hun Yuan forms. He authored many books and DVDs to promote the art. Click [here](#) to see Feng's teaching video of Hun Yuan 24 Form demonstrated by his daughter Master Feng Xiufang.

[Sifu Justin Meehan](#) of St. Louis, Missouri, started his learning with Grandmaster Feng in 1981 and continued to visit Beijing to study until last November. What he remembers most of Grandmaster Feng was his warmth to others and generosity to his students. During the Chinese Cultural Revolution, Tai Chi was forbidden to practice. Risking his life, Grandmaster Feng courageously continued to train his top students secretly to keep the Chinese heritage alive. With that, Sifu Meehan considers him **a true Dragon of China**.

[Dan Ferber](#) of Indianapolis, Indiana lamented that, "the world has lost a great man. Grandmaster Feng Zhiqiang was a historic figure in the world of internal martial arts. He always said that Tai Chi was not a possession of the Chinese people, but a gift from the Chinese people to the world. No one did more to share it." Many remembered Feng's profound teaching, and some even recalled the light in his eyes when he joked.

Grandmaster Feng's memorial is set for May 11. Many of his students, disciples and followers are planning to attend the event in Beijing to bid the final farewell to the legendary Feng. [Asr Cordes](#) of San Diego, California, said that "he has always been a tremendous source of inspiration, information and a direct influence on my training through lineage. I was always hoping to get to meet him before he took his leave from this place." Many echoed the same sentiment. But this will not be the end of the Hun Yuan system. Feng's legacy will live on through his valuable books, DVDs, his daughters Masters Feng Xiufang and Feng Xiuqian, his grandson [Feng Yanbo](#), his disciples like Dr. Yang Yang, Grandmaster [Zhang Xue Xing](#), Master Ma Kung Luk, Master [Wilson Wu](#), Master [Wang Changhai](#), Master [Zhang Jiping](#), Master [Han Yigong](#), and thousands of practitioners around the world.

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**Violet Li**

Tai Chi Examiner